

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 11, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MALLORY made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 331.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of P. S. Duval & Co., of Philadelphia, having had the same under consideration, report :

The petitioners contracted with the government in 1856 to print, with plate illustrations, the second volume of Perry's Japan Expedition, to be paid for when delivered ; the government to supply the paper.

In pursuance of this contract, they printed, with the illustrations, " a large number of copies," and had them ready to deliver when they were destroyed by fire in April, 1856, together with the plates from which the work was illustrated.

They recommenced the work, and applied to the Superintendent of Public Printing for paper ; but as Congress was not in session they obtained the paper from the manufacturer, with the consent of the superintendent, subject to future adjustment, and proceeded to perform the contract.

The account filed by the petitioner is for value of property as follows :

10,020 each of 10 plates for the Japan Expedition, vol. 2d, being on hand ready for delivery and destroyed by fire 11th April, 1856.....	\$3,121 97
Redrawing 10 plates, at \$30.....	300 00
64 reams of paper, at \$12.....	788 00
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	4,209 97

These statements are corroborated by the Superintendent of Public Printing.

Your committee do not deem the petitioners entitled to relief beyond the value of the paper. They show no reason why they did not secure themselves against loss by insurance, and the government in contracting with them did not undertake to insure them against loss by fire.

Your committee report a bill accordingly.

